19th August 1925]

General.

Report regarding the excision of the Oriya area from the Madras Presidency.

* 138 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report of Messrs. C. L. Philip and A. C. Duff on the proposed excision of the Oriya area of the Ganjam district from the Madras Presidency has been referred to the Government of Madras for opinion ;

(b) whether any opinion has been expressed by the Madras Government ; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place the correspondence on the table ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The correspondence cannot be placed on the table without the sanction of the Government of India.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" With reference to the answer to clause (c), will the Government be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Government of India for publishing the report ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" We shall communicate to the Government of India the wishes of the hon. Members of this House as expressed in this question."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With reference to clause (b), may I know when the report was received by the Government of Madras, when the Government of Madras expressed their opinion, and may I have some idea of the opinion expressed by the Madras Government ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The answer to the last branch of the question is in the negative ; the first two branches of the question will be answered if the hon. Member repeats his question."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" When did this Government receive the letter from the Government of India ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I shall be glad to inform the hon. Member and if he so desires this hon. Council as to the date of the receipt of the communication, and the date of the reply. But as to the contents of the reply, as it has already been adverted to here, it is confidential and obviously no tentative idea of what it is can be given to this House."

Irrigation.

Condition of the Periyar water in Satur hills.

* 139 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a portion of Periyar water in Satur hills, Ramnad district, is stagnant ; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any investigation as to the possibility of bringing this water to the plains of Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks ?

A.—The Government are not sure to what the hon. Member refers. The outlet to the Periyar lake has recently been improved, and some of the channels are being remodelled. The question how best to use any surplus water available when these works are finished will then be considered.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" Sir, there is a printer's devil in clause (*a*) ; ' Satur hills ' must be ' Sethur hills '. May I ask the hon. Member to answer the question in the light of the correction made ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The answer was not affected by the devil in the question." (Laughter.)

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" May I have a specific answer to the question whether there has been any project to bring this water to the plains of Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Not so far as I am aware ; but the question will be considered by me. "

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May we have some information regarding the condition of the Periyar dam? We saw some alarming reports in the papers. "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" On receipt of the information which has been referred to by the hon. Member the Raja of Ramnad, steps were taken to have the site inspected and it was found that the report was baseless and I may say that the report was so inaccurate that it provoked a great deal of discontent and alarm not only here but everywhere on the part of people who had estates in the locality concerned. We made expert enquiries and found that there was absolutely no basis for any theory or suggestion that the Periyar dam was in danger. "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that a sum of Rs. 1 lakh and odd was set apart for the repairs of this dam which was supposed to be in danger ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Not so far as I am aware, Sir. "

Utilization of water in the Arjuna river.

* 140 *Q.*—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal to start a co-operative society in order to utilize the water in the Arjuna river from Watrap hills, Ramnad district, for wet cultivation by re-building an old anicut ;

(*b*) whether there was any investigation into the matter by the Public Works Department ; and

(*c*) if so, the result of the investigation ?

A.—(*a*) Yes : a proposal was made by the Assistant Registrar, Tinnevelly, and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, in February 1923.

(*b*) & (*c*) A scheme for the purpose was already under the consideration of the Public Works Department but on investigation, the